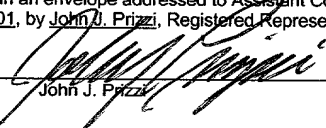


CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as EXPRESS MAIL NO. EL155985378US, in an envelope addressed to Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Box Patent Application, Washington, DC 20231, on October 25, 2001, by John J. Prizzi, Registered Representative.


John J. Prizzi

Date: October 25, 2001

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the application of:)
PANKAJ K. MEHROTRA et al.)
Serial No. (to be assigned)) GROUP ART UNIT
Filed: October 25, 2001) Examiner:
For: PROCESS FOR HEAT TREATING)
CERAMICS AND ARTICLES OF)
MANUFACTURE MADE THEREBY)

October 25, 2001

HON. ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
Box Patent Application
Washington, DC 20231

Sir: PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Please amend this application as follows:

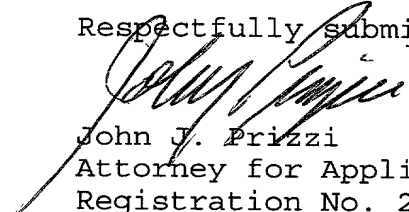
IN THE CLAIMS:

Cancel Claims 25-47, 50, 51 and 53-54.

R E M A R K S

Claims 1-24, 48, 49 and 52 are in this case.

Respectfully submitted,


John J. Prizzi
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